



2018 WRAEE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 23-25TH, 2018

ROB HILL CAMPGROUND, PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO

Western Region Association for Experiential Education

W R A E E

Presents

Engage ~ Play ~ Thrive

This year's theme summarizes the process of experiential education. We engage a vibrant community of educators and learners with diverse backgrounds and perspectives with one common goal: to bring our whole selves to the table and play hard. Play is critical, not just as an essential and universal human experience, but as the root of our practice. We play to teach, to connect, and to overcome difficult times. We will walk away from this year's conference with the knowledge and skills that we need to help our programs and communities thrive under any circumstances.

What is a West Region Association Experiential Education (WRAEE) Conference?

This conference is geared toward educators, teachers, counselors, outdoor guides, environmental educators, camp leaders, group facilitators and anyone interested in experiential methodology. Experiential education is a philosophy and methodology in which educators purposefully engage with learners through direct experiences and reflection in order to increase self-knowledge, develop skills and clarify values.

What is AEE?

The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a nonprofit, professional membership organization that supports the highest caliber of professionals in the fields of experiential education. AEE has been transforming education since 1972 and currently has 1,500 members in 33 countries engaged in more than 15 areas of professional practice. Collectively, our members impact more than 2.8 million learners annually. For more information, check out www.aee.org/west.

The Location

The Presidio- Most people across the country have to travel for hours to get to a National Park. The Presidio is a National Park right in the city. It is a San Francisco treasure, full of stories, plants and animals, and historic buildings that represent the heritage of the place we call home. Transformation is the story of the Presidio. The Presidio has a rich history spanning back to the time of the native Ohlone people. Each year, Camping at the Presidio (CAP), welcomes two Ohlone groups for week-long spiritual gatherings and “Big Time” events. These groups also offer many prayers to the land which we now call Rob Hill. WRAEE is looking forward to welcoming one of the Ohlone groups to share their history and the historical and cultural significance of the Presidio.

Welcoming Ceremony with The Ohlone

The Ohlone - We are a band of Mission Indians with ancestry connected to Mission Dolores, as well as throughout the Bay Area. As a community, we are relocated out of our homeland, in Southern California. Every year we work with the parks to continue our way of life and hold two ceremonies that take place in Rob Hill. One is a private rite of passage for the men and the other is a community and environmental "big time gathering" to celebrate the beauty of life. Thanks to this unique partnership we are able to thrive as a community in our ancestral homeland.

The Presidio is where San Francisco began. Founded at the Golden Gate in 1776, it served as a military fort under the flags of Spain, Mexico and the United States before it became a new kind of National Park in 1994. Where once there was an army base brimming with soldiers and military activities there is now a National Park staffed with interpretive Rangers and educational activities. Where once well-drilled troops defended concrete bunkers with weapons of war, there are now well-used and picturesque hiking trails overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the Golden Gate. Where once there were waste dumps and black topped surfaces there are now restored natural riparian areas and uncovered marshland. Where once there were guarded gates that limited access there are now wide open marked bicycle trails for cyclists, joggers, and people walking their pets. Better yet, there are still more massive plans for transformation in the Presidio's future. The "Post to Park" vision that began two decades ago is still being shaped.

Camping at the Presidio- The Camping at the Presidio Program (CAP) is searching for an Educational Intern for our upcoming season. The CAP Program provides youth who traditionally have not visited national parks with meaningful overnight camping experiences. Designed for community organizations and schools, CAP provides a dynamic and affordable way to enrich the lives of young people. Since 2007, CAP has met the need for thousands of Bay Area youth to get access to overnight camping in the Presidio, while providing a gateway experience to explore the Golden Gate National Parks and public lands far beyond our urban center. Camping at the Presidio is a Crissy Field Center program, run in partnership with Bay Area Wilderness Training, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service.

ADDITIONAL LODGING OPTIONS

Please see the [lodging options](#) or go to: <http://www.aee.org/west>

SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb 23	Descriptions
8:30 – 9:30	Registration (Check out Camping Gear)
9:30 – 9:45	Presenters Meeting
10:00 – 10:45	Welcome & Opening
11:00 - 12:30	Workshops Session A
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch and Break
2:00 - 3:30	Workshops Session B
3:30 – 3:45	Break
4:00 - 5:30	Workshop Session C
5:30 - 6:30	Set Up Camps (tents if needed)
6:30 - 7:30	Community BBQ Rob Hill
7:30 - 9:00	Playnote with the Pacific Leadership Institute
Saturday 2/24	Descriptions
8:00 - 9:00	Registration (Check out Camping Gear)
8:30 - 8:45	Presenters Meeting
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome & Opening
9:20 – 9:30	Break
9:30 – 11:00	Workshop Session A
11:00 – 11:15	Break (Snacks Available)
11:15 - 12:45	Workshop Session B
12:45 - 1:15	Lunch (Walk to Keynote)
1:15 - 2:00	Keynote
2:00 – 2:15	Break
2:15 - 3:45	Workshop Session C
3:45 - 4:00	Break
4:00 - 5:30	Workshop Session D
5:30 - 6:15	Break and Set-up Tents
6:15-7:15	Catered Dinner & Awards
7:15 to 10:00	Aztec Dance by Calpulli Tonalehqueh

Sunday 2/25	Descriptions
9:00 - 10:30	Workshop Session A
10:45 - 12:15	Workshop Session B
12:30 – 1:00	Closing back at Rob Hill Campground
1:00 - 4:30	Sailing with Blue Water Foundation

REGISTRATION

Member Registration Fees/ Non-Member Fees

- Full Registration - \$115/ \$130
- Student Full Registration - \$65/ \$95
- One Day Registration - \$100/ \$100
- Service Crew - \$55
- Presenters – Free

Optional Meal Plan - \$40

Saturday Dinner Only - \$20

Limited Scholarships Available- for more info: Contact wraeeconference@gmail.com

John & Sabina DeWit Memorial Scholarship

Generously donated by Kim DeWit

Kim is offering two full scholarships for the 2018 WRAEE conference. For more information about this scholarship, click [here](#). To apply please send a letter to wraeeconference@gmail.com including:

- A paragraph about yourself
- Your connection to experiential education
- What you are hoping to gain from attending the conference

Online Registration

Go to <http://www.aee.org/west>

New This Year: Youth Rate!

This year we have decided to include a high-school conference track on Saturday 2/24! We will be asking for proposals geared toward or led by a high school audience, and including a 1-day youth rate of \$15 including lunch!

MEALS

Optional Meal Plan - \$40: In addition to continental style breakfast and lunch, this meal plan includes a community BBQ Friday night and catered dinner by local restaurant Sunrise Deli. Each morning and evening there will be a coffee & tea and snack station available. If you do not wish to purchase the full meal plan, you can still join us for dinner Saturday night for \$20, catered by Sunrise Deli.

Sunrise Deli

This San Francisco family owned and operated business uses only the finest quality of meat and vegetables. Sunrise Deli uses the freshest meat from local ranches and vegetables are handpicked daily and are of the highest quality from local farms. In 1984, Sunrise Deli opened on 2115 Irving Street in the Sunset District in San Francisco and introduced the most delicious and best Middle Eastern cuisine in the Bay Area. Almost three decades later, Sunrise Deli continues to provide the freshest and highest quality Middle Eastern food in the Bay Area. With numerous awards along the way, Sunrise Deli has garnered much attention in the local media including *San Francisco Chronicle* and *SF Weekly*, for its quality of food and excellence in service.

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Join us for a community campfire featuring Aztec Dance by Calpulli Tonalehqueh

Tonalehqueh is a multilayered metaphorical term. It means “Those who accompany the sun along its journey.” It refers to those who individually and collectively strive to meet their full potential on earth, and who take the characteristics of the sun as their goals for personal growth and existence. Like the Sun itself, we seek to be resplendent, strong, steady, life giving, balanced, humble, virtuous, and creative.

Calpulli Tonalehqueh also hosts the largest Azteca Mexica New Year Ceremony & Celebration in the nation. Their goal is to make it educational, sustainable and environmentally friendly.

WRAEE AWARDS

Each year, the region gives out two special awards:

- The Rising Star Award – Given to an emerging leader within the field of EE.
- The Exemplary Practices Award – Given to a person or an organization demonstrating exemplary practices within the field of EE. Areas of practice include, but are not limited to: leadership, service, positive impact, ingenuity, legacy or other contributions to the field of EE.
- Servant Leader Award-Given to an individual who demonstrates active, excellent leadership and exhibits the highest level of ethical practices.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Youth Outside for receiving the Exemplary Practitioners Award and Andrea Fraume for receiving this year's Rising Star Award and Terry Williams for receiving the Servant Leader Award. Make sure to get to know these incredible people!

LODGING:

Your registration fee includes camping at the Rob Hill Campground. The campground sits atop the highest point in the Presidio and overlooks Baker Beach and the beautiful Pacific Ocean. If you choose to camp at Rob Hill bring all your camping essentials and know that there are no shower facilities at the campground. If you prefer, you may arrange your own off-site lodging accommodations. The local area has plenty of lodging options. ([See attachment](#))

ADDITIONAL EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

Blue Water Foundation Sailing Adventure Special

Whether you want to raise the sails, tack underneath the Golden Gate bridge or just enjoy the views from the water come step aboard *Golden Bear*, a former 46 ft racer and *Benjamin Walters*, our founders classy 43ft ocean cruiser for the post conference activity. Blue Water Foundation is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to bringing the joys and challenges of sailing to San Francisco Bay Area youths. Check them out at bluewaterfoundation.org to get inspired.

Sail is on the 25th from 1pm to 4pm.

Spots are \$25 each, sign up now, space is limited (20 sailors max).

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site

Workshop SESSION A - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Creating Invincible Youth-What Every Teen Need to Thrive and the Integral Role Adults Play

In this fun and interactive workshop, participants will learn, discuss and play through the 7 factors of Integrative Youth Development to gain tools to intentionally promote youth thriving by developing the personal and community capacity to create and sustain thick and vibrant webs of support for all youth that protect them from harm and launch them into their greatness.

Presenter: Jen O'Brien-Rojo

Strand: Art and Science of Teaching

Play Empathy

Through very powerful yet playful activities, attendees will reflect about their role in inclusion after experience what it would be like to live with a disability. Then they will propose what we as educators and school staff can do to promote inclusion. Previous knowledge or skills are not required; anyone can enjoy and learn from this.

Presenter: Diego Antonio and Torres Hernandez

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

MAD for Migration: Complex Concepts Come Easy When Put into Play

Come play with complex concepts and learn to teach core social and ecological concepts through concrete operational tasks. Fly like a shorebird migrating along the Pacific Flyway. Prepare to feel the wind tickle your feathers as you open your wings and take flight. Roost, Forage and Breed at your shoreline rest stop, experience rhythmic, kinesthetic role playing and game creation synced to nature's cycles. Conjure and share creative play activities to convey related core concepts. Consider relevant applications to your site.

Presenter: Beth Teper

Strand: Environmental Education/Nature Study

How Maker Education Can Help Teachers Integrate Subjects and Standards

Do you long for a better way to teach your students than lectures and textbooks in the classroom? Why not bring experiential education into the class day with maker education. Teach your students history, math, science, or any other subjects in a cross-curricular standards accomplishing activities your students will love. At this workshop, you will be given simple and affordable supplies you can easily recreate and accomplish a challenge based on a specific grade level. Ready, set, make!

Presenter: Jenn Beach

Strand: Art and Science of Teaching

Workshop SESSION B - 2:00 pm - 3:30pm

Goals That Make a Difference

In this interactive workshop, you will engage in an exploration of how to set and achieve meaningful goals. You will participate in experiential activities and discussion about effectively setting and following through on goals. You will use the SMART model (specific; measurable; attainable; relevant; time-bound) to examine examples of goals and then apply the model in writing at least one personal goal.

Through this workshop, you develop a deep understanding of SMART goals and practice setting and evaluating the effectiveness of goals.

Presenter: Jani Jackson

Strand: Experience-Based Training & Development

Understanding Bias in Curriculum

In this workshop, participants will explore the meaning of Unconscious Bias. Participants will explore how unconscious bias and individual perceptions impact their daily interactions and relationships.

Participants will explore macro and micro aggressions and how to hold ourselves and our community accountable when harm is done.

Presenter: Rena Payan

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

Developmental Ecology: Step up your facilitation game by seeing in “Full Color”

Through synthesizing and applying the best research and principles, Kaleidoscope Connect is leading the way by measuring the key factors that shape the developmental ecology of youth beyond Social and Emotional Learning. Receive an engaging explanation of protective factors, growth mindset, resilience, gratitude, and social norms as well as mitigating risk behaviors. Be equipped to empower your participants through “full color” connection and be introduced to Kaleidoscope Connect’s innovative web-based tool: the Student Support Card TM.

Presenter: David Pavish and Lisa “Kersch” Kersche

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Workshop SESSION C - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

How Can You Engage-Play-Collaborate-Thrive in an Academic Setting? (and meet curriculum objectives)

In teams of 3-5, attendees will participate in a mini goosechase- a scavenger hunt like activity- which involves collaboration, teamwork, creative problem solving, completing actions together, role-playing, fun!, and a little exploration of local surroundings. The whole group will then discuss, examine and explore ideas organically about how to effectively apply EE strategies to achieve content specific outcomes (using this and/or other examples). Participants will leave with a virtual tool-kit of ideas for their own applications of content. Digital access with cell device a big plus, but not 100% necessary.

Presenter: Kimberly Anne DeWit

Strand: Schools and Colleges

Understanding Bias in Curriculum (Part 2)

In this workshop, participants will explore the meaning of Unconscious Bias. Participants will explore how unconscious bias and individual perceptions impact their daily interactions and relationships. Participants will explore macro and micro aggressions and how to hold ourselves and our community accountable when harm is done.

Presenter: Rena Payan

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

Get your head out of the cloud! -Technology withdrawal in the wilderness.

The majority of the youth we work with have grown up with a world infiltrated with technology and social media. When they come out on a program with us it may be the first time in their life to be away from their phone for such an extended period of time. Research has shown that the addiction to technology looks similar in the brain as the addiction to other drugs and can alter your brain chemistry. Yet, what are we doing to address this on wilderness trips? What are some approaches to addressing this new reality?

Presenter: Jason Schmidt

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Friday's Playnote – 7:30-9:00 pm

Join us Friday night with a Playnote led by Drew McAdams the Chief of Programs at The Pacific Leadership Institute (PLI). PLI is an experiential education and leadership development program aimed at empowering individuals and strengthening teams. We offer a ropes course, team building events, and leadership development programs to instill confidence, cooperation, and empowerment of youth and adult leaders to create positive change in their community.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE: PLAY AS OUR TEACHER AND HEALER

In our ever-changing world, and given our current climate of social injustice, we see an ever-growing number of participants (in any setting, therapeutic, educational,



recreational) with some sort of difficulty with self-regulation. Self-regulation includes the ability to take responsibility, organize, explore, and learn to self-soothe and delay gratification. Too often, the opportunity of play is ignored or dismissed, despite its clear means to acquisition of these skills. Play may involve physical dexterity, creativity, imagination, problem solving, negotiating, and mindfulness — traits of self-regulation essential to healthy growth and development, no matter our age. This keynote blends neuroscience, adventure and nature interventions, experiential learning,

and occupational science, to better facilitate opportunities to self-calm, process information, and then interact with novelty in their environment and social settings. Check out this video of Dr. Lung speaking at the 2017 International AEE

ActivatEE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKQC58ZrPkk&t=366s>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. MAURIE LUNG PHD, MCHC LMFT LIFE ADVENTURES COUNSELING AND CONSULTING

About Dr. Lung

Dr. Maurie Lung, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT is the founder and CEO of Life Adventures Counseling & Consulting (www.LifeAdventuresCC.org), a community organization that provides adventure-based mental health therapy and consulting. She has over 25 years of experience as a therapist, business owner, author, speaker, trainer, evaluator, and university instructor. She has co-authored two books for mental health professionals as well as a variety of articles about how to experience nature and adventure in order to heal our hearts and restore dignity. Maurie integrates her knowledge and experience of recreation, education, psychology, and evaluation to experientially provide services with a diverse client population. The growth and change she witnesses for youth, families, and adults through this process continues to amaze her and remind her of the power of playful experience. In addition to her experiences as a practitioner and administrator, Maurie provides consultation, coaching, training, and technical assistance to organizations who want to improve their level of organizational functioning or implement a more experiential approach to their services. She also is Associate Faculty at Prescott College teaching graduate courses in mental health counseling and overseeing the Adventure-based Psychotherapy and Ecotherapy programs.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site

Workshop SESSION A - 9:30 am-11:00 am

Amplifying the Developmental Ecology of Your Staff and Organization

Explore your own developmental ecology and web of support. Learn how to see yourself, your staff, and colleagues through a “full-color” lens. Sometimes people who support and grow others - like teachers, coaches, human services professionals, supervisors, etc - struggle with making self-care a priority. Through Kaleidoscope Connect’s “full-color” approach, we will demonstrate how you can engage and grow yourself, your staff and overall organizational culture through connection. Use this lens to mitigate burnout while equipping and empowering yourself and those within your organization.

Presenter: David Pavish and Lisa "Kersch" Kersche

Strand: Experienced Based Training and Development

Activities for Couples

This workshop will provide direct experience with the facilitation of active interventions that support couples and relationship counseling. Exploration will include activities and dialogue that supports effective communication, shared problem-solving, playful connection, and meaningful understanding.

Presenter: Maurie Lung

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

String Stories for Collaborative Learning and Brain-Mind-Body Health

Did you play “Cat’s Cradle” as a child? A three-foot loop of cord offers us a startling window into a fun and challenging learning activity, where we directly experience that all learning is ultimately self-directed, and each of us must chart our own path, based on interest and ever-expanding competencies. The learning is fun, the fine motor development is real, and the stories are delightful! Take home a string and some stories to share, based on a universal human pastime with ancient roots and endless variations. Collaborative learning for brain health and mind-body integration...

Presenter: Fred Mindlin

Strand: Mind/Body/Spirit

Workshop SESSION B - 11:15 am-12:45 pm

Activities for Couples

This workshop will provide direct experience with the facilitation of active interventions that support couples and relationship counseling. Exploration will include activities and dialogue that supports effective communication, shared problem-solving, playful connection, and meaningful understanding.

Presenter: Maurie Lung

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

4 Essential Behaviors for Effective Group Leadership

Ever wonder what makes group leaders effective? In this practical, activity based session, Nate will share his answer to this question – four practical behaviors of group leadership that inspire effective, engaging, and inclusive experiences for a variety of groups in nearly any setting. The consistent practice of each behavior is what matters. We will explore each behavior through interactive activities and reflect on the impact of each behavior when applied. You will note areas of strength and growth, then choose one behavior to practice immediately when leading your groups. Leave inspired with a deliberate practice for effective group leadership.

Presenter: Nate Folan

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Beginners Guide: Games and Facilitation

Games are fun! Most facilitators have their go to games, sometimes referred to back pocket games, along with a certain way of facilitating them. This workshop will introduce you to many games that you can use and how you can facilitate it to meet your audience.

Presenter: Jerry Lam

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Out of our Corsets and into the Woods

This well-researched, informal presentation looks at women adventures from the 1800s to the present. Inspirational and motivational it provides education and fun simultaneously. Learn about women you can use in your teaching and everyday conversation. Women highlighted include indigenous women, women of color, and physically challenged women as well as women from a variety of economic class backgrounds. Explore what motivated these adventurers and leaders and why some never recorded their adventures and others wrote about them 20 or more years later.

Presenter: Denise Mitten

Strand: AEE Leadership Development

Workshop SESSION C - 2:15 pm-3:45 pm

The 5-question debrief

If you have ever led a game or activity, circled up the group, said "O.K. What just Happened?" and were met with blank stares or the rote answers "teamwork," "communication," "leadership" etc... given not because they are understood, but because they were the "expected" answers, this workshop may be for you. Based on Micah Jacobson and Mari Rudi's 2004 book, "Open To Outcome," participants will, through interactive play, learn five questions that when asked the right way, for the right reasons, and at the right time will help your clients make powerful connections and learn from their experience.

Presenter: Kurt Hoge

Strand: Adventure Based Programming

The Power of Improvised Play

The future is likely to be more VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous); where "Wisdom of Uncertainty" will be vital to feel secure in life. This requires the "right-directed brain" that, so far, has been given less importance than the "left-directed". No matter how old we are, we can develop our ever changing brain by having proper diet and experiences in our life. One effective way to increase our ability to deal with VUCA world is to engage in activities that involves improvisation. This session you will walk away with numerous activities and conditions to increase freedom improvise.

Presenter: Shabbir Latif

Strand: Experience-Based Training and Development

Beyond the Experience: Using Phenomena to Drive Meaningful Experiential Education

How do you design experiential courses that are not simply experiences but that allow for authentic learning and growth? How do you redefine rigor in your experiential education curriculum? Using real-world phenomena as the basis for learning, this workshop will break down how to create meaningful, interdisciplinary, and rigorous courses rooted in experiences. Attendees will learn new tools for going beyond the class trip or eco-tourism experience and learn ways to let curriculum and learning outcomes drive experiential education.

Presenter: Ivan Johnson and Zoe Kupetz

Strand: Schools and Colleges

A Model of Transformation That Extends the Hero's Journey and How You, Can Use It

Recall your biggest life-changing event. This is the beginning of transformation, becoming a new you. Even though a life-changing event may appear to others and you, as though it has ended, according to this researcher, the process is only half complete. Learn the thirteen phases of transformation and discover where you and your client are in the process. Use your knowledge of these phases to normalize uncomfortable feelings, implement ways to ease challenges and accelerate the process, and discern the best action of self-care. Using the phases of transformation as a lens through which to view life events can help you to interpret why the present circumstances are meaningful and instill hope towards a healthier happier life.

Presenter: Susan Ross

Strand: Body/Mind/Spirit

Workshop SESSION D - 4:00 pm-5:30 pm

Human Development and Nature Interaction

It is common knowledge that it would be hard to impossible to survive without the natural world; we depend in it for food, shelter, and energy. However, we do not often think about the necessity to spend time in nature in order develop as healthy, responsible human beings. This workshop integrates knowledge from attachment theory, developmental science, learning theory, and nature involvement research. Combining the need for primary attachment to human caregiver and attachment or connection to nature we look at developmental theories and considerations for parenting. Participants help design a developmentally grounded outdoor program.

Presenter: Denise Mitten

Strand: Environmental Education/Nature Study

Creating a Therapeutic Alliance

Simply stated, the therapeutic alliance is the cornerstone of change and is a requirement for helping others to reach their goals. This workshop will guide participants in becoming more effective in establishing and deepening relationships with their clientele. It is important to recognize the client's investment in the therapeutic process and understand what type of relationship the client is offering. Only then, can we "meet clients where they are." Through simple, proven skills, participants will gain a greater appreciation of their skill set and how to be more impactful with the populations that they serve.

Presenter: Scott Bandoroff

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

Integrated Design: More Than Just Fun & Games

Build off a successful experience by assisting in the application of insights back to something of importance. Imagine how different design elements can be mixed and matched before, during and after a learning event to accelerate knowledge transfer. See how Empowered Alliances is innovating by using an assortment of experience-oriented programs together to provide a unique service. Organizations are engaged at multiple levels, involving different groups of individuals while focused on short term projects. More touch points for small amounts of time is a key part of the formula we'll explore.

How can tech tools be used to bring anonymous feedback into the discussion process? How can your facilitation, observation and influence skills be better utilized? What else can you offer to expand your contract and impact for any team/organization? Experience the effects yourself in addition to doing some prototype design work on a program you are passionate about.

Presenter: Jeff Richardson

Strand: Experience-Based Training and Development

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site

Workshop SESSION A - 9:00 am-10:30 am

Special Session by Chairman Valentin Lopez from the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

For centuries California Indians managed and sustained cultural ecosystems with traditional resource and environmental management practices. Today, after a period of colonial dispossession, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is fulfilling their obligation to Creator by relearning traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and returning to their traditional territory to steward and care for Mother Earth. Amah Mutsun Tribal Chairman Valentin Lopez will discuss the history of the tribe and how the Amah Mutsun Land Trust was developed as a means to assist the tribe in their efforts, discuss TEK and the implications for this indigenous science to collaborate with western science, restoring cultural ecosystems and promoting biodiversity.

Presenter: Valentin Lopez

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

Presidio History Hike (3 Hours) 9:00 am-12:15 am

Maggie is a Seasonal Staff member with the Camping at the Presidio Program. Maggie will be leading us in a hike of the Presidio, along the Batteries to Bluffs Trail. You will have the opportunity to learn about the park's native plants, wildlife, history, and take in gorgeous views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the Pacific Ocean.

Presenter: Margaret McGarry

Workshop SESSION B - 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Youth Leaders and Adult Partners: Growing Our Greatness Together

Let's grow YOUR greatness, the greatness that is already within you! Together, through conversations and interactive activities we will explore a new kind of leadership that is authentic, real and rooted in who you are! We will learn the tools to discover new possibilities within ourselves and the tools to grow the greatness and potential of others.

Presenter: Kymberly Lacrosse and Daniel DaSilva

Strand: Experience-Based Training and Development

Nature the Great Facilitator: Identity and Youth of Color

Participants will learn the meaning of intersectionality as it relates to youth of color and how to recognize its relevance when teaching outside. This workshop is meant to inspire you to consider how situational contexts affect individual identities and systemic power dynamics. You will learn strategies on how to tune into meaningful experiences in nature to empower and better connect with youth of color.

Presenter: Andrea Fraume Valencia

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

PRESENTER BIOS

Diego Antonio

I am Mexican and 33 years old. I have been a Boy Scout since I was 9 where I learned to accept and enjoy diversity and to team work. Being a Leader in Boy Scout inspired me to be a teacher. I love traveling.

Scott Bandoroff Ph.D.

Dr. Bandoroff has worked as clinician, supervisor, internship director, consultant and trainer. Scott is well known in the adventure field through his publications and presentations in the U.S. and abroad. He co-developed the Clinical First Responder training for field guides and direct care staff.

Jenn Beach

I am an independent maker educator, specializing in creating maker curriculum cross-curricular and standards based. My background is in design and design history, and I began teaching about design and engineering at Montessori schools, museums, and after-school programs before I became a nomadic teacher.

Daniel DaSilva

Daniel has been engaged in youth leadership and advocacy work for ten years. Daniel worked with Jovenes SANOS for five plus years and has continued his leadership work with Growing Greatness. Daniel is currently attending UCSC for his BA in Community Studies.

Kimberly Anne DeWit

A life-long educator and world traveler, Kim (M.Ed) has worked in various fields of education - environmental ed, earth science, Spanish, and more. She currently combines EE practices within the academic setting as an instructor of Intensive English to international students at Boise State.

Nate Folan

Nate Folan is an inspired experiential trainer, facilitator, and author. He enthusiastically engages people in interactive learning experiences that are personally and professionally fulfilling. Nate passionately helps leaders throughout the united states and around the world deliver programs that are engaging, relevant, and effective.

Torres Hernandez

Torres Hernandez is Mexican and 33 years old. He has been a Boy Scout since 9, where he learned to accept and enjoy diversity and teamwork. Being a Leader in Boy Scouts inspired

Valentin Lopez

Valentin Lopez is the Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, one of three historic tribes that are recognized as Ohlone. The Amah Mutsun are comprised of the indigenous descendants forcibly taken to Missions San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz. Chairman Lopez is also the President of the Amah Mutsun Land Trust which was established in 2012. He is a Native American Advisor to the University of California, Office of the President on issues related to repatriation. He is also a Native American Advisor to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology. The Amah Mutsun are currently working to restore their traditional indigenous knowledge regarding land stewardship so they can return to the path of their ancestors. Consequently, the Amah Mutsun are very active in conservation and protection efforts within their traditional tribal territory. Chairman Lopez is working to restore the Mutsun Language and is a traditional Mutsun singer and dancer.

Maurie Lung Ph.D.

Maurie Lung, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, integrates 20+ years' experience in recreation, education, psychology, and evaluation to provide therapeutic services in a community-based organization she founded. Additionally, she is associate faculty at Prescott College overseeing Adventure-based Psychotherapy and Ecotherapy graduate concentrations.

Maggie McGarry

Maggie is the current Manager of the Camping at the Presidio Program, with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. She is an experienced facilitator of youth development, team building, restorative practices, and 1st Aid/CPR trainings throughout the Bay Area.

Fred Mindlin

30 years as bilingual (Spanish-English) teacher in Watsonville, CA; creator of a unique curriculum for collaborative and self-directed learning, based on using string figures (Cat's Cradle) for storytelling; now working as a Teaching Artist in Watsonville schools.

Denise Mitten Ph.D.

Starting with the Girl Scouts, Denise has led trips from SCUBA to mountaineering. She has developed programs to strengthen bonding between parents and children, a leadership

him to be a teacher. For 10 years, he has work in a preschool as a specialist teacher facilitating the educational inclusion of children with disabilities from 3 to 6 years, and coordinates the education area of "Unidos somos iguales."

Kurt Hoge

Kurt Hoge Founded Project Great Outdoors in 1999, and oversaw its curriculum and programs until its recent merger with Environmental Traveling Companions. He was the co-convenor of the WRAEE conference three times, 2009, 10 and 11. He and Project Great outdoors were named the exceptional practitioner by WRAEE.

Jani Jackson, M.Ed

Jani Jackson is the founder of Develop Your Team, providing innovative solutions for teams striving to achieve peak performance. She is thrilled to help others grow and excel. Her programs use experiential learning methods to improve team dynamics, engagement, decision-making, and overall performance.

Ivan Johnson

Ivan Johnson is the Dean of Student Life at the Oakwood School in Los Angeles, CA. For the past 17 years, Ivan has worked at Oakwood, making a career out of leading educators and students through experiential based curriculum.

Lisa "Kersch" Kerscher

Kersch has been working in K-12 education for about 20 years, primarily in science and environmental topics, with an expertise and bent toward personal, local, and cultural relevance. Over the last decade at nonprofit Brightways Learning, she's expanded into experiential and developmental learning and transformation

Zoe Kupetz

Zoe Kupetz is a senior at Oakwood School. For the past four years, Zoe has designed and engaged in a series of one-on-one courses with the Dean of Student Life, Ivan Johnson, exploring interdisciplinary and experiential education.

Kymberly Lacross

Kymberly Lacrosse has over thirty years of partnering with youth and brings a heartfelt passion that is rooted in an undeniable commitment to see individuals and communities to be inspired, educated and thrive. Her commitment to equity, justice, access and health are undeniable.

program for women felons, and leadership apprenticeship program for women, opening the door to outdoor leadership to many women.

Jen O'Brien-Rojo

Jen O'Brien-Rojo is the founder of the California Institute for Invincible Youth, coaching teens, families and communities to ensure they have a vibrant web of support that protects as well as launches teens into their greatness.

David Pavish

David is a presenter/trainer to youth and adults with over 20 years of experience in youth development and experiential education. Specializing in youth developmental ecology, he has created and written outdoor leadership educational programs and curriculum that have been used in Alaska, Canada and Mexico.

Rena Payan

Rena is the Program Manager at Youth Outside. In her role, she is tasked with working toward equity and representation in the outdoor field by supporting young adults from diverse backgrounds through training that will develop them into outdoor leaders, stronger community advocates, and more confident champions of the planet.

Jeff Richardson

Jeff Richardson is a 'transformational engineer' with 20+ years of practice designing workshops using experiential learning to accelerate change for leaders, teams and organizations. Common insights from Japanese multinationals, space explorers and healthcare IT can benefit your clients too!

Susan L. Ross Ph.D.

Susan Ross is an Assistant Professor and Director of Recreation Therapy and Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the Health Science and Recreation Department at San Jose State University. Her primary research examines personal transformation and is the subject of her forthcoming book, "The Map to Wholeness: Finding Yourself through Crisis, Change, and Reinvention."

Jason Schmidt

Jason Schmidt started working in experiential education in 2005, and then Outward Bound in NC in 2007. He is currently the Associate Program Director for Outward Bound California in the Bay Area.

Jerry Lam

Jerry Lam grew up in San Francisco and is a recent graduate of San Francisco State University. He is a ropes course facilitator Pacific Leadership Institute and enjoys taking people with different abilities whitewater rafting on the South Fork of the American River.

Shabbir Latif Ph.D.

Shabbir is an Advanced Trainer and Practitioner with 6 seconds EI Network. He is a mentor/coach, speaker/trainer, and author. Since June 2007, Shabbir's clients have ranged from senior executives of large corporations, at-risk youth in high school, to inmates and staff at a maximum-security prison.

Beth Teper

San Francisco native, Beth Teper, fell in love with fog, redwood trees, and tide pools at a young age. Beth shares deep love and curiosity about natural history and local ecosystems with students of all ages as a naturalist and environmental educator based in Oakland, CA.

Andrea Fraume Valencia

Andrea Fraume is the Outreach Coordinator for Bay Area Wilderness Training. She has five years of experience facilitating and instructing lessons for youth and adults, along with a burning passion for environmental justice, equity, and education.

OUR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the conference committee members for all the effort, work and love put into putting this conference together.

Terry Williams, Ph.D
Rosy Woodruff
Jani Jackson
Andrea Fraume
Leah Callan
Kim DeWit
Miranda Fry
Cassie Bowers
Tara Schmidt
Margaret McGarry

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Pacific Leadership Institute (PLI): "A program of San Francisco State University"



The Children are Our Future



The Presidio Trust



Bay Area Wilderness Training



The Blue Water Foundation



Presidio & Point Bonita YMCAs

Questions about the WRAEE conference? Contact Rosy Woodruff through
Email: wraeeconference@gmail.com or Phone 707-310-5977.